

# Washington State Patrol Fact Sheet

**Chief John R. Batiste**

---



Captain Jeff DeVere  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Contact: Government and Media Relations**  
**Phone: (360) 753-5299**

## **WSP Training Process for Commissioned Personnel**

Commissioned troopers carry out the department's primary goal of providing a safe motoring environment for the public. They are responsible for enforcing (Troopers enforce more than just traffic laws. Troopers can enforce any law established under the RCW's and WAC's) traffic laws, investigating collisions, and assisting motorists on 17,524 miles of the state's highways. The Field Operations Bureau oversees eight geographic districts and the agency's Commercial Vehicle Division.

To become a Trooper Cadet with the Washington State Patrol, you must complete a thorough screening process which includes the application, interview board, polygraph, background check and psychological examination by the WSP psychologist. When someone is hired as a trooper cadet they will begin a training process which includes:

- **Arming Class:**  
Arming Class training is 6 weeks long and this training prepares the cadets to go in the field as armed cadets so they can work in the 39 contractual positions such as Mansion cadets, Labor and Industries (L&I) cadets, Assistance Patrol cadets, and Vessel and Terminal Security (VATS) cadets.
- **Familiarization Rides:**  
Cadets working in the field participate in a ride-along program for 16 hours. During this time the trooper cadets ride with a veteran trooper to familiarize themselves on the tasks troopers have to face in the field.
- **Trooper Basic Class:**  
The Trooper Basic Training, conducted at the Washington State Patrol Academy in Shelton, takes approximately six-months. During this period cadets are trained on firearms, driving, self-defense, collision investigation, first aid, traffic and criminal law, water survival, and physical fitness.
- **Coaching Trip:**  
The final portion of the Trooper Basic class consists of a 6 week long coaching trip. During the coaching trip, the cadets ride with a Field Training Officer or FTO. They are evaluated on the different aspects of the job which includes their judgment on whether or not to pull over and cite or warn the driver, driving, report writing, and investigation.

(more)

- Upon graduation, each newly commissioned trooper is assigned to patrol duty in one of the State Patrol's eight geographical districts located throughout the state.

**District 1:** The District includes Pierce and Thurston counties. Washington State Patrol's District 1 Headquarters is located in the Combined Transportation Facility, at 2502 112th Street East, in Tacoma, southeast of the Portland Avenue/Midland exit from State Route 512, in Pierce County. Detachment offices are located in Gig Harbor and Olympia/Thurston County.

**District 2:** The District includes portions of northern Pierce County and all of King County. Detachment offices are located in North Bend, North Seattle, South Seattle, Enumclaw, and Bellevue.

**District 3:** The District is situated in southeastern Washington with headquarters in Union Gap, on the outskirts of Yakima. The district provides service in Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Yakima Counties. This includes coverage of more than 900 miles of state and interstate highways. Detachments are located in Kennewick, Sunnyside, Union Gap, and Walla Walla.

**District 4:** The Spokane District includes the seven Eastern Washington counties of Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman. Detachment offices are located in Colfax, Colville, Ritzville, Spokane, and North Spokane.

**District 5:** The District is situated in southwestern Washington with headquarters in Vancouver. The district provides service in Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, and Skamania Counties. Detachments are located in Chehalis, Goldendale, Kelso, Morton, and Vancouver.

**District 6:** The District encompasses the counties of Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, and Okanogan, and the northeast corner of Adams County in North Central Washington. District 6 covers the largest geographical area of any district. The population for the five-plus county area is approximately 250,000. The district headquarters is in Wenatchee, and detachments are also located in Okanogan, Ephrata, Moses Lake, and Ellensburg.

**District 7:** The District is responsible for the northern Puget Sound Region, covering from the King/Snohomish County line to the Canadian Border, from the top of the Cascades through the San Juan Islands. We actively patrol Snohomish, Skagit, Island, and Whatcom Counties, and have jurisdictional responsibility for San Juan County, assisting the San Juan County Sheriff when requested. District 7's jurisdiction includes the Washington State Ferry routes and their terminals at Mukilteo, Clinton, Edmonds, and Anacortes.

**District 8,** The District is situated along the Pacific coastline of Washington State with headquarters in Bremerton. The district provides service in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties. It covers more than 1,700 miles of state highways, and its jurisdiction has been enlarged to include vessel and terminal security (VATS) on the Washington State ferry system. Detachments are located in Hoquiam, Port Angeles, Poulsbo, Raymond, and Shelton.

- Troopers continue to be trained and monitored throughout their career to make sure they have the training to continue to provide services to the best of their ability. This training/ monitoring includes:

(more)

- In-Service Training:

Every year all commissioned personnel are required to attend annual training at the Academy. This training focuses on Driving, Defensive/Control Techniques, and Firearms.

In addition to this, all WSP personnel may be required to attend Regional Training put on by Regional Training Officers or RTO's. This training may include such topics as Legal Updates, Health and Safety issues, Officer Safety issues, Harassment Awareness and Diversity issues.

- Evaluations:

Commissioned troopers are evaluated every 60 days for their first year on the job. After the first year the officers continue to be evaluated every 6 months. These evaluations include all aspects of their job like, report writing, investigations etc.

###